Teaching Writing: Structure & Style Overview Presented by Andrew Pudewa

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Acknowledgements

This Seminar & Practicum is based upon the Blended Sound-Sight Program of Learning as taught throughout Canada by Mrs. Anna Ingham and her staff, and upon the text <u>Blended Structure and Style in Composition</u> by James B. Webster, Professor Emeritus, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Without their inspiration and support, as well as their dedication and labor over the past several decades, this seminar could not exist.

Portions of this workbook and other materials may be photocopied for use in teaching children. Additional copies of the complete workbook as well as Blended Sound-Sight texts and supplemental teaching materials can be ordered from:

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THE STRUCTURAL MODELS

Essay Writing

(Combine with Science, History, etc.)

Creative Writing

(Combine with Reading, Literature, etc.)

I. Note Making & Outlines

(Key words from each sentence)

II. Summarizing from Notes

(Key words from each sentence)

III. Summarizing Narrative Stories

(Key words from answers to story sequence chart questions)

IV. Summarizing a Reference

(Key words from facts from one source: limit; choose interesting/important)

VI. Library Research Reports

limit; choose interesting/important; fuse)

(Key words from facts from multiple sources:

V. Writing from Pictures

(Key words from answers to questions about pictures)

VII. Creative Writing

with Structure (Key words from answers to questions; "notes from brain")

IX. Formal Critique

(Unit III model with Introduction & Conclusion)

VIII. Formal Essay

(Unit IV/VI model with Introduction & Conclusion) Persuasive Essay

The One-A-Month Schedule

Essay Writing

(Combine with Science, History, etc.)

Creative Writing

(Combine with Reading, Literature, etc.)

I. Note Making & Outlines

(Key words from each sentence)

September

II. Summarizing from Notes

(Key words from each sentence)

<u>October</u>

III. Summarizing Narrative Stories

(Key words from answers to story sequence chart questions)

November

IV. Summarizing a Reference

(Key words from facts from one source: limit; choose interesting/important)

Febuary

VI. Library Research Reports

(Key words from facts from multiple sources: limit; choose interesting/important; fuse)

<u>April/May</u>

VIII. Formal Essay (Unit IV/VI model with Introduction & Conclusion) Persuasive Essay

December/January

V. Writing from Pictures (Key words from answers to

questions about pictures)

<u>March</u>

VII. Creative Writing

with Structure (Key words from answers to questions; "notes from brain")

<u>May/June</u>

IX. Formal Critique (Unit III model with Introduction & Conclusion)

The Ant and the Grasshopper by Aesop

One summer's day, a Grasshopper was hopping about, chirping and singing to his heart's content.

An Ant passed by, bearing along a kernel of corn he was taking to his home.

"Why not come and play with me instead of working so hard?" asked the Grasshopper.

"I am helping to lay up food for the winter," replied the Ant, "and think you should do the same."

"Why worry about winter?" said the Grasshopper, "we have got plenty of food at present!"

When the winter came, the Grasshopper had no food and was dying of hunger. Too late, he realized it is best to prepare for the days of necessity.

Stylistic Techniques

I. Dress-Ups

1.	who-which clause	4.	strong verb
2.	"ly"	5.	quality adjectives
3.	because clause	6.	when, while, where,
			$as, since, if, although \ {\rm clause}$

Advanced: dual adverbs, verbs, and adjectives; noun clause; adverbial or adjectival "teeter-totters"

Minimum Rule:Each one in every paragraphIndicator:underline (only six)

II. Sentence Openers

A subject	E clausal ,
B prepositional	F vss (2-5 words)
C "ly" word	Advanced:
D "ing",	G "ed"
<u>Minimum Rule:</u>	Each one in every paragraph as possible; no more than two of the same in a row.

Indicator:	Number in margin (every sentence)	
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III. Decorations

1.	question	4. dramatic opening-closing
2.	conversation	5. simile or metaphor
3.	3sss	6. alliteration

Minimum Rule:One different decoration per paragraph, four per storyIndicator:Dotted underline or "dec." in margin

IV. Sentence Styles (Triple Extensions)

- 1. word repetition
- 2. phrase & clausal repetition
- 3. repeating "ings," consecutive or spaced
- 4. repeating "lys," consecutive or spaced
- 5. repeating adjectives or nouns
- 6. repeating verbs, consecutive or spaced

Minimum Rule:One different style per paragraphIndicator:The word "triple" in margin

Examples of Dress-ups:

1. who/which (adjective clause; "who" or "which" in the middle of a sentence)

The yellow-bellied sapsucker, <u>which</u> is native to Canada and the northern United States, destroys young trees by sucking sap from the branches.

The lion, <u>who</u> felt he would never be able to disentangle himself from the hunter's net, was most grateful for the appearance of the little mouse.

Many people are not aware of Tiki Tom, <u>who</u> lived alone for years on a deserted island.

2. "ly" word (adverb)

The fox <u>casually</u> mentioned how pleased he would be to hear the crow sing.

3. **because** (adverb clause)

The hare was delighted <u>because</u> he knew it would be an easy race.

4. strong verb (use thesaurus, Banned Words List, suggested synonyms, etc.)

5. quality adjective (use thesaurus, Banned Words List, suggested synonyms, etc.)

6. when, while, where, since, as, if, although (adverb clause, in middle of a sentence)

The hare dozed peacefully <u>while</u> the tortoise plodded persistently. The cheese dropped to the ground <u>when</u> the crow began to sing. The lion was humbled <u>as</u> he beheld his miniature rescuer at work.

Advanced "dress-up" ideas:

7. dual adverbs, verbs or adjectives

The shepherd boy <u>fearfully and desperately</u> screamed to the villagers below. All the animals <u>taunted and tormented</u> the panic-stricken hare. "What magnificent feathers you have," crooned the <u>clever but deceitful</u> fox.

8. noun clause (use "that" or omit the word and leave the clause)

The king of the beasts never imagined <u>that</u> a puny rodent could help him. The vain crow believed (<u>that</u>) she was the most elegant of all birds. Midas thought nothing could be grander than the golden touch.

9. adverbial and adjectival "teeter-totters"

- Adverbial: Dual adverbs before the verb with an adverbial clause following. The fox <u>secretly and cruelly</u> laughed <u>as</u> the foolish crow began to sing. The lion <u>furiously and tenaciously</u> struggled <u>while</u> the net grew tighter and tighter.
- Adjectival: Dual adjectives before a noun with an adjective clause following. The hare scoffed at the <u>humble</u>, <u>lethargic</u> tortoise <u>who</u> had challenged him.

